



More than 600 AmeriCorps members attended the 2015 Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Celebration to kick off a new year of service. The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) hosted the annual Member Celebration, which brings together AmeriCorps members from across the state for a day of training, networking, and recognition. The day's events help members see the impact their service has on communities throughout Michigan and understand they are part of a significant national movement.

"I found the Member Celebration to be an eye opening experience," said Kamara Sudberry, AmeriCorps member with Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids. "Having a chance to connect with hundreds of fellow members was not only exciting, but rewarding as well."

Throughout the day, members attended workshops focused on leadership, professional development, and other topics relevant to their year of service. Members also listened to speakers from various service backgrounds, including keynote speaker Michael Brown, co-founder and CEO of City Year, and MCSC Executive Director Ginna Holmes. The day concluded with Michigan's Lt. Governor Brian Calley leading the swearing-in ceremony, which reaffirms members' commitment to AmeriCorps and national service. The Celebration was an exciting and enlightening day that will serve as a springboard for a successful program year!



Member Celebration Highlights:

- ◆ Incredible National Anthem performance by Breanne Badger
- ◆ Gaining new knowledge through National Service Trivia
- ◆ Photo slideshows that reflect the diversity of Michigan's AmeriCorps members and program focus areas
- ◆ Words of wisdom and encouragement from keynote speakers Michael Brown and Lt. Governor Brian Calley
- ◆ Special pinning ceremony for veterans currently serving as members
- ◆ Informative workshop sessions that helped equip members with the tools they need to have a successful year of service
- ◆ Connecting with exhibitors, decorating lunch bags for the Kids' Food Basket service project, and having fun in the AmeriCorps photo booth



2015-16 Michigan's AmeriCorps LeaderCorps

The 2015-16 Michigan's AmeriCorps LeaderCorps members were also introduced at the Member Celebration. These individuals, nominated by their AmeriCorps programs, help strengthen Michigan's national service movement and increase awareness of AmeriCorps in Michigan through outreach presentations, community-wide service projects, and civic engagement. LeaderCorps members had their first meeting on November 19 and 20 to begin developing and implementing their annual goals.

For more information on Michigan's AmeriCorps, visit www.michigan.gov/mcsc.

View [photos from the event on Flickr](#).